



# Baker, Simmons, Maseeh are freshmen's top choices

## 35 attempt to leave East Campus during FYRE

By Drew Bent

Baker, Simmons, and Maseeh once again topped the residence preferences in this summer's freshmen housing lottery. MacGregor, on the other hand, saw its lowest numbers in four years, while Next demonstrated a surge in interest during the same period, according to data provided by MIT Residential Life and Dining. This year also marked the first time that Maseeh participated in the First Year Residence Exchange (FYRE), in which students have the option to switch dorms during their first week at MIT.

In the summer lottery, incoming freshmen ranked the 11 MIT

undergraduate dorms in order of preference. Baker snagged the title of most desired, with 282 students selecting it as their top choice, marking the fifth time in the past six years that Baker led in popularity. Simmons and Maseeh followed, with 202 and 144 top picks, respectively. Dorms with dining halls, including Baker, Simmons and Maseeh, tended to fare better.

Next House has seen rising numbers every year since 2011, when 43 students selected it as their top choice. This year, 99 selected it as their top choice. MacGregor, on the other hand, has declined in popularity, having been named the top choice by 102 students in 2011 but only

by 34 this year.

MIT's FYRE program offers additional insight into the dorm preferences of students. During the Residential Exchange Program (REX) at the start of the year, students explored dorms and their distinctive cultures through a variety of events hosted by REX committees. Students then had the option to switch dorms in the FYRE lottery.

As this was the first year that MIT's newest undergraduate dorm, Maseeh, participated in REX and FYRE, the Maseeh REX committee focused on organizing a few quality events as opposed to many small ones. "Most

FYRE, Page 11

## Students flock to Career Fair



MEGAN PRAKASH—THE TECH

Johnson Athletics Center and Rockwell Cage saw a constant influx of students all day last Friday at the Fall Career Fair as students explored jobs and internships at over 380 companies.

## Majority of freshman males pledge to a fraternity

Of the 340 students who received the 405 bids handed out during fraternity rush this year, 293 have pledged, according to the Interfraternity Council.

Fifty-two percent of freshman males are now affiliated, as well as two percent of females due to the recent integration of the mixed-gender fraternity, No. 6 (Delta Psi), into the IFC last semester.

"To my knowledge, that percentage is one of the highest in recent memory — higher than last year's, which itself was a record," IFC president Haldun Anil '15 wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "As you can imagine, we're pretty

thrilled about the results."

According to Anil, the total number of pledges increased from 330 to 340, even though the number of bids dropped from 451 to 405.

Delta Upsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha, which are under suspension, did not participate in rush this year.

"Our raw numbers ended up decreasing by about the same number as the sum of the bids given out last year by DU and LCA," said Anil in an email to *The Tech*. "Conversely, however, the class size decreased by a larger amount, offsetting that difference."

—Patricia Z. Dominguez

Chapter	Bids Offered	Bids Accepted	Cross-Rush (Win/Loss)
Alpha Delta Phi	21	15	1-1
Alpha Epsilon Pi	9	6	1-1
Alpha Sigma Phi	0	0	0-0
Beta Theta Pi	9	5	1-2
Chi Phi	15	14	8-1
Delta Kappa Epsilon	17	14	3-1
Delta Psi	17	17	0-0
Delta Tau Delta	15	9	1-3
Kappa Sigma	21	15	2-7
Nu Delta	19	14	2-3
Phi Beta Epsilon	30	28	7-2
Phi Delta Theta	7	5	2-1
Phi Kappa Sigma	17	11	3-4
Phi Kappa Theta	16	16	1-0
Phi Sigma Kappa	18	14	4-2
Pi Lambda Phi	19	14	0-2
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	18	17	10-0
Sigma Chi	13	9	1-4
Sigma Nu	23	13	0-5
Sigma Phi Epsilon	17	5	0-4
Tau Epsilon Phi	7	4	0-0
Theta Chi	13	8	4-3
Theta Delta Chi	11	6	1-3
Theta Xi	13	10	0-3
Zeta Beta Tau	16	9	2-3
Zeta Psi	22	15	3-4

COURTESY OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

## Wearable 'Mighty Mom' takes first prize at breast pump hackathon

The "Make the Breast Pump Not Suck" Hackathon this past weekend drew over a hundred parents, engineers, designers, and healthcare specialists to campus. The organizers, MIT Media Lab students and researchers, were inspired by problems posed by current breast pumps, which they say are uncomfortable, inefficient, and costly.

Tal Achituv, a research assistant, said that breast pumps are "low hanging fruit" with great potential impact in society, technology, and business.

First place went to the Mighty Mom Util-

ity Belt, a wearable pump that automatically stores and analyzes personal data; second place went to Helping Hands, which helps mothers manually lactate through a compression bra; and third place went to PumpIO, "an open software and hardware platform" for smart breast pump devices.

The three winning teams received, respectively, \$3,000 and a trip to Silicon Valley, \$2,000, and \$1,000. The event was sponsored primarily by breast pump and healthcare companies.

—Brandon Zeng

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

# Study on urinating dogs wins prize at Ig Nobel ceremony

Quirky research takes center stage at Harvard event

By Ray Wang

Six Nobel laureates convened at Harvard's Sanders Theatre last Thursday for the 2014 Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, presenting ten awards to fellow scientists being recognized for strange research.

In the past, winning research has included the likes of the famous "levitating frog" and studies on the celestial-navigation abilities of beetles, and winners

are often even more interesting than their work suggests.

Expecting to meet some singular characters, I arrived at Sanders just in time for press interviews, two hours before doors opened to the public. Amidst the professional camera crews and buzzing reporters were the winners — in physics, neuroscience, psychology, public health, biology, art, economics, medicine, and arctic science.

Ig Nobels, Page 9

## IN SHORT

The Red Cross blood drive will continue in La Sala de Puerto Rico (W20-202) through Friday; hours will be 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. the rest of the week.

ESP's Splash, an educational program for high school students, will run the weekend before

Thanksgiving. Sign up to teach at <https://esp.mit.edu/teachAnything> by Friday.

This semester's final exam schedule has been made available at <http://finals.mit.edu>.

Send news information and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

## EVERYDAY SINCERITY

Making friends at the Institute and beyond.

CAMPUS LIFE, p. 11

## TAKING THE GRE

Easier said than done.

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## GRAD STUDENT UNIVERSE

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning.

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## JOBS EVERYWHERE

A career fair photo spread.

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## PUZZLES GALORE

We have sudokus on sudokus.

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## 4 of 5 inmates are captured after escape from California jail

Four of five inmates who escaped from a jail in central California and were considered "armed and dangerous" were captured Saturday, the authorities said.

The inmates escaped from the Madera County Jail around 9:15 p.m. Friday, the county Sheriff's Department said in a statement on its Facebook page.

But around 10 p.m. Saturday, Pacific time, Erica Stuart, a spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Department, announced that four of the inmates had been captured. Roel Soliz, 29, who was convicted of burglary and parole and probation violations, was still at large, she said in an email.

The men had fled on foot, wearing their bright orange jail jumpsuits, Stuart said Saturday night. She told The Associated Press that officers from the county Department of Corrections, which operates the jail, noticed that the inmates were missing about an hour after they escaped.

The Sheriff's Department identified the captured inmates as Ricardo Cendejas, 19; Juan Lopez, 30; Jorge Lopez-Diaz, 26; Abel Ramos, 25.

The five men were being held on a total of 23 charges, including attempted murder, armed robbery and promoting or assisting felony gang activity, the statement said.

"All five men should be considered armed and dangerous," the Sheriff's Department said on Facebook earlier Saturday.

—Ashley Southall, *The New York Times*

## Black bear kills man, 22, during hike in North Jersey

A Rutgers University student was killed by a black bear over the weekend, the police said Monday, the first such recorded death in New Jersey since the 1850s.

The student, Darsh Patel, 22, and four friends were hiking on Sunday in the Apshawa Preserve in the northern part of the state, about 40 miles from New York City. They encountered a black bear, which began to follow them, according to the police in West Milford, a township that includes the preserve.

The friends told the police they scrambled to get away from the bear, all running in different directions. Four of the men later found one another, and they called the police to help search for their missing friend, according to the authorities. Patel's body was found about two hours later.

"Evidence at the scene indicated that the victim had been attacked by a bear," the West Milford Police Department said in a statement.

Investigators added that a 300-pound bear was found at the scene and was "immediately euthanized."

Efforts to reach Patel's family on Monday afternoon by phone were unsuccessful.

Patel was a senior at Rutgers from Edison, New Jersey, and was majoring in information technology and informatics. In a statement, Richard Edward, the university's chancellor, said, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones and to all his friends and fellow students at Rutgers."

No one has been killed by a bear in New Jersey since 1852, according to a 2010 report on black bears by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

However, Larry Ragonese, a spokesman for the department, said that the black bear population had recently "grown out of control," especially in far northern New Jersey. Black bears have caused some injuries to humans, including an attack in 2011 where two boys were hurt in northern Sussex County. There have been 146 dangerous encounters with black bears through Sept. 20 this year, the department found in a report.

The growing population prompted the state to institute a black bear hunting season in 2009, which has lowered the population to between 1,800 and 2,400 bears.

—Tatiana Schlossberg, *The New York Times*

# U.S. and allies hit Islamic State targets in Syria

By Helene Cooper and Eric Schmitt  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The United States and allies launched airstrikes against Sunni militants in Syria early Tuesday, unleashing a torrent of cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs from the air and sea on the militants' de facto capital of Raqqa and along the porous Iraq border.

U.S. fighter jets and armed Predator and Reaper drones, flying alongside warplanes from several Arab allies, struck a broad array of targets in territory controlled by the militants, known as the Islamic State. U.S. defense officials said the targets included weapons supplies, depots, barracks and buildings the militants use for command and control. Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired from U.S. Navy ships in the region.

"I can confirm that U.S. military and partner nation forces are undertaking military action against ISIL terrorists in Syria using a mix of fighter, bomber and Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles," said Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary,

using an alternate name for the Islamic State.

"Given that these operations are ongoing, we are not in a position to provide additional details at this time," Kirby said in a statement Monday night in Washington. "The decision to conduct these strikes was made earlier today by the U.S. Central Command commander under authorization granted him by the commander in chief. We will provide more details later as operationally appropriate."

The strikes are a major turning point in President Barack Obama's war against the Islamic State and open up a risky new stage of the U.S. military campaign. Until now, the administration had bombed Islamic State targets only in Iraq, and had suggested it would be weeks if not months before the start of a bombing campaign against Islamic State targets in Syria.

The strikes came less than two weeks after Obama announced in an address to the nation that he was authorizing an expansion of the military campaign against the Islamic State.

Unlike U.S. strikes in Iraq over the past month, which have been small-bore bombings of mostly individual Islamic State targets — patrol boats and trucks — the salvo on Tuesday in Syria was the beginning of what was expected to be a sustained, hours-long bombardment at targets in the militant headquarters in Raqqa and on the border.

The strikes began after years of debate within the Obama administration about whether the United States should intervene militarily or should avoid another entanglement in a complex war in the Middle East. But the Islamic State controls a broad swath of land across both Iraq and Syria.

Defense officials said the goal of the air campaign was to deprive the Islamic State of the safe havens it enjoys in Syria. The administration's ultimate goal, as set forth in the address Obama delivered on Sept. 10, is to recruit a global coalition to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the militants, even as Obama warned that "eradicating a cancer" like the Islamic State was a long-term challenge.

## Obama sidesteps Congress with rules to curb corporate flight

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew announced rules on Monday that are aimed at making it more difficult for American companies to lower their tax bills by relocating overseas and that would wipe out the benefits for those that do. It is the administration's latest move to sidestep a paralyzed Congress and tackle a politically charged element of President Barack Obama's agenda.

"While there's no substitute for congressional action, my administration will act wherever we can to protect the progress the American people have worked so hard to bring about," Obama said after the regulations on the so-called corporate inversions were announced.

The changes may affect pending inversion deals, like one involving AbbVie, an Illinois-based pharmaceutical company that is in the process of acquiring its smaller British rival, Shire, or the Minneapolis medical device maker Medtronic, which is acquiring Covidien in Ireland.

It is calculated to make companies considering such deals "think twice" before doing so, Lew said. Burger King announced last month it would acquire the Canadian coffee-and-doughnut chain Tim Hortons, focusing new attention on the pace of inversions. "For some companies considering deals, today's actions will mean that inversions no longer make economic sense," Lew said. "These transactions may be legal, but they're wrong."

Still, some Democrats, including those who have been the harshest critics of corporate inversions, said the actions were far too limited to substantially reduce the practice. Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York said the Obama administration had been hemmed in by the limits to its legal authority, yielding a set of rules

that most likely will hold up in court but have little substantive effect.

"Certainly they made a good effort, but what this administrative action shows is that the only real way to stop inversions is legislative," Schumer said in an interview. In particular, he said Congress must pass legislation that stops a practice known as "earnings stripping." That is when a parent company loads up a U.S. subsidiary with debt, which can be deducted for tax purposes, rather than treating it as equity, which is not eligible for deductions.

While Lew said his preference was for Congress to act on a broad business tax overhaul that would include anti-inversion provisions, it had become clear that would not happen before the November post-election session. In the meantime, he said Treasury was exploring additional administrative steps to attack inversions, something the president said he supported.

### WEATHER

## It's always sunny at the Institute

By Vince Agard

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Sunshine and light winds are expected to continue this week as strong high pressure is poised to dominate the northeastern United States. A broad high pressure system currently centered over the Ohio Valley will merge today with a secondary high currently located over eastern Canada. The combined high will move over New England tomorrow, bringing clear skies and calm winds to the region. Light southwesterly flow may prevent a sea breeze from developing this afternoon, keep-

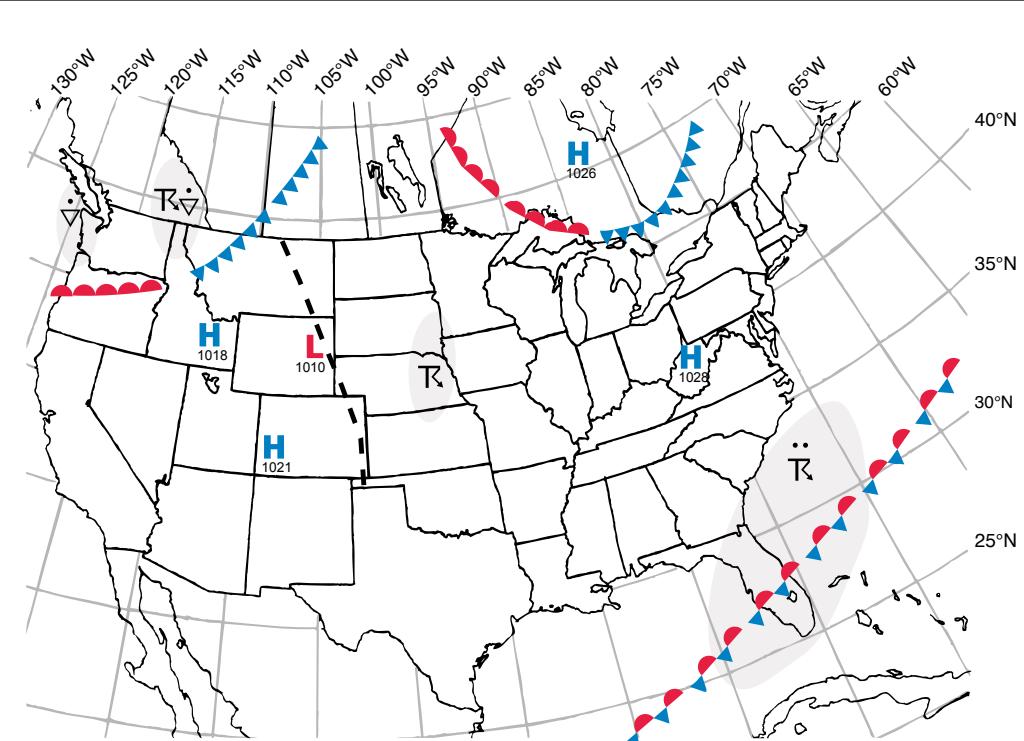
ing temperatures a few degrees warmer than they will be tomorrow. A coastal storm will have a chance of glancing the Massachusetts coastline on Thursday, but current indications do not appear favorable for the storm to make it this far north.

After the brief passage of the possible coastal storm, another high pressure system will move over the eastern United States in association with an upper-level ridge.

This pattern could lead to a brief late-season heat wave with temperatures potentially nearing 80°F (27°C) this weekend.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny, high 68°F (20°C). Winds SW at 5-7 mph.  
**Tonight:** Clear, low 53°F (12°C) with calm winds.  
**Tomorrow:** Sunny, high 62°F (17°C). Winds E at 5-10 mph.  
**Thursday:** A chance of showers, highs in the mid 60s°F (18°C).  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C).



# Plaintiffs challenge Texas voter ID law, claim the law is biased

By Manny Fernandez  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — A law requiring Texas voters to show government-issued identification before casting a ballot is the latest example of the state's long history of discrimination against minorities and puts unjustified burdens on the right to vote for more than half a million Texans, lawyers challenging the law told a federal judge here on Monday.

The Justice Department, joined by several black and Hispanic voters, elected officials and advocacy groups, sued Texas in federal court over the state's voter-identification law, asking a judge to overturn it and arguing that it discriminates against minority voters. Texas officials said the law was necessary to prevent voter fraud and have denied that it discriminates, arguing that the five elections Texas has held using the law's requirements had yielded few reports of people being unable to produce the types of ID needed to vote.

The case has the potential for

widespread effect on the state's coming elections, as well as on the extent of the federal government's oversight of Texas voting procedures. The plaintiffs want the judge to require Texas to seek advance federal approval before making changes to its voting laws, a level of oversight the U.S. Supreme Court forced the state from last year.

A ruling striking down the law could affect procedures for the Nov. 4 election. Following the closing arguments Monday in a trial that began Sept. 2, the judge hearing the case — Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos of U.S. District Court — did not say when she would issue a ruling. But lawyers expect a decision before the election from the judge, whom President Barack Obama appointed to the court in 2011.

Lawyers for the groups opposing the law cited elements of Texas' past in their closing arguments Monday. They told the judge of whites-only primaries, poll taxes and the discriminatory redrawing of electoral district lines. In one case, a three-judge federal panel in Washington ruled in 2012 that the maps

drawn by the Texas Legislature for state Senate, state House and congressional districts discriminated against minority voters. The Republican legislators who approved those district maps passed the voter ID bill in the same 2011 session of the Legislature.

Texas "has used race as an issue that has defined its politics and has too often defined its policy," said Chad W. Dunn, a lawyer for some of the plaintiffs.

The historical arguments made in court and in legal filings were tied in part to a crucial aspect of the plaintiffs' case — intent.

The Justice Department and civil-rights lawyers argued that Texas had a "discriminatory intent" in enacting the law. They said the nearly all-white Legislature, in crafting the law, eliminated forms of ID that are more accessible to minorities and retained those more accessible to whites. They said the state's Republican leaders were trying to achieve a partisan advantage, at a time when the Hispanic and black populations in Texas, which tend to vote mostly Democratic, were booming.

## Hong Kong students lead democracy fight with class boycott

HONG KONG — Thousands of Hong Kong university students abandoned classes Monday to rally against Chinese government limits on voting rights, a bellwether demonstration of the city's appetite for turning smoldering discontent into street-level opposition.

"University students must shoulder the responsibility of these times," Nathan Law Kwun-chung, the acting president of the student union of Lingnan University, told the crowd crammed into the main quad at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Some held banners of their schools, many others umbrellas to ward off the sun in this tropical former British colony.

"Boycotting classes is just the first wave of resistance," he said. "Today is not the last step for us all. It's the first step, and countless resistance campaigns will bear fruit."

The student strikers, who have said they will boycott classes for the week, are at the vanguard of a planned succession of protests against rules proposed by China that would effectively give Beijing the right to screen candidates for Hong Kong's top official.

High school students plan to join the boycott for a day on Friday. While the strike's first day indicated a modest start, the biggest showdown will come if the main pro-democracy group, Occupy Central with Love and Peace, acts on vows to flood Central, the city's main business district, with demonstrators.

—Chris Buckley and Alan Wong, *The New York Times*

## German Amazon workers walk off job over wage dispute

BERLIN — Amazon employees in Germany, frustrated by the company's refusal to hold wage talks, walked off their jobs Monday in a coordinated strike at four of the company's distribution centers.

A total of 2,000 workers refused to show up for their shifts on Monday in an effort to force the company to accept an agreement in line with other retailers.

The job action was expected to run from the early shift Monday through the late shift on Tuesday, said the Ver.di retail and service workers union, which organized the strike.

Amazon said the number of employees taking part in the strike during the first shift was not significant enough to prevent the company from making its deliveries on time.

"Less than 600 employees of the early shift have followed the call to strike action," Anette Nachbar, a spokeswoman for Amazon in Germany, said in an email. "Therefore the strike will not impede on the compliance with Amazon's delivery promise."

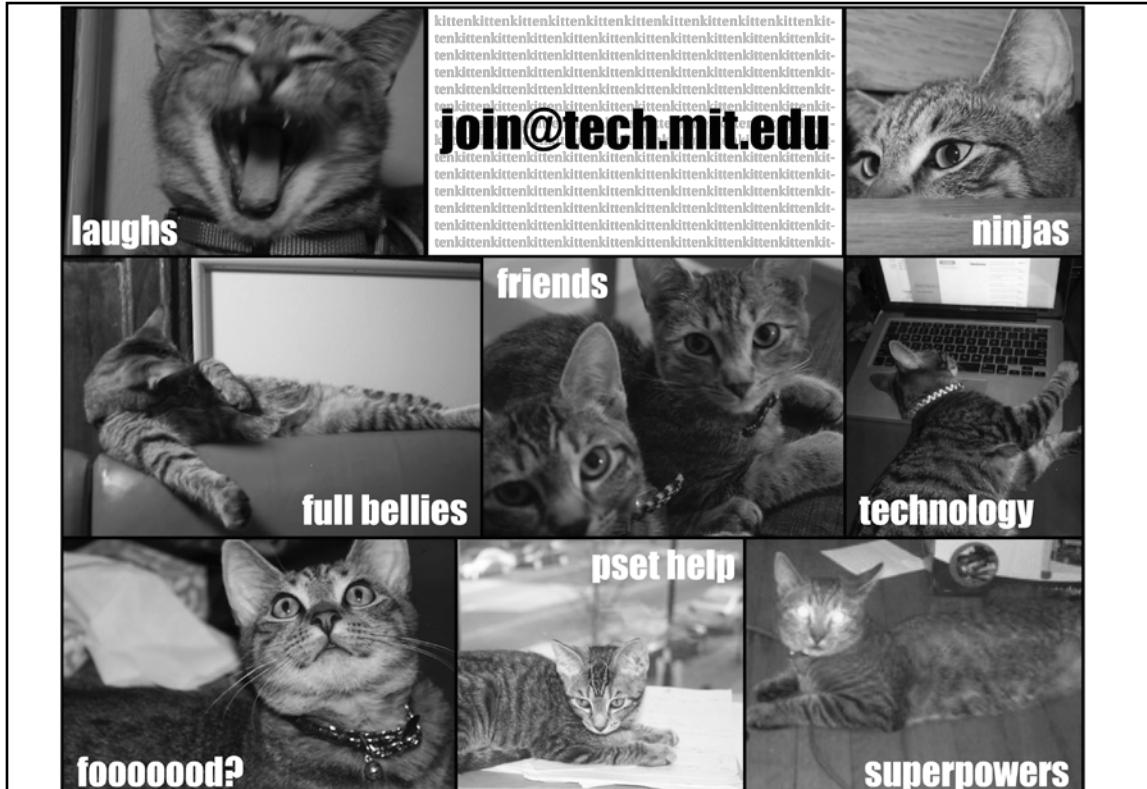
The company employs some 9,000 full-time workers in Germany, with thousands more on temporary contracts.

At the heart of the issue is an attempt by Ver.di to force Amazon to recognize itself as a retailer, which would make it beholden to labor laws that require wages be set through collective bargaining.

But Amazon insists that its warehouses are logistics centers, "not shops frequented by customers." Instead, most of its workers are involved in taking goods from shelves, packing and shipping them, and for their services, they receive wages at the upper end of the pay range for logistics workers, Amazon says.

Ver.di has been fighting Amazon since spring 2013, holding successive walkouts at different times, but Monday's was the first coordinated action to be held simultaneously by workers at the four facilities — at Bad Hersfeld, Leipzig, Graben and Rheinberg.

—Melissa Eddy, *The New York Times*



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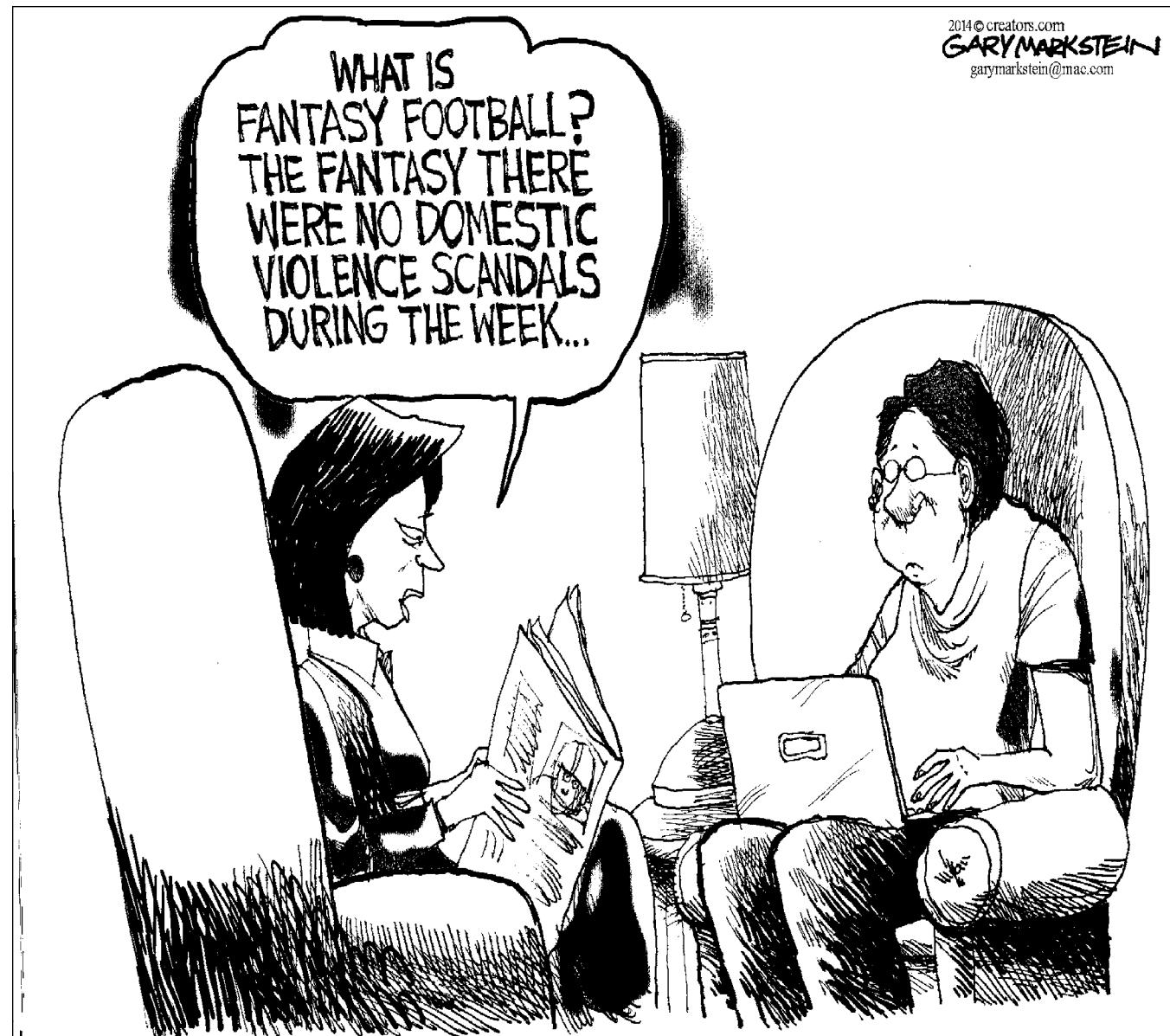
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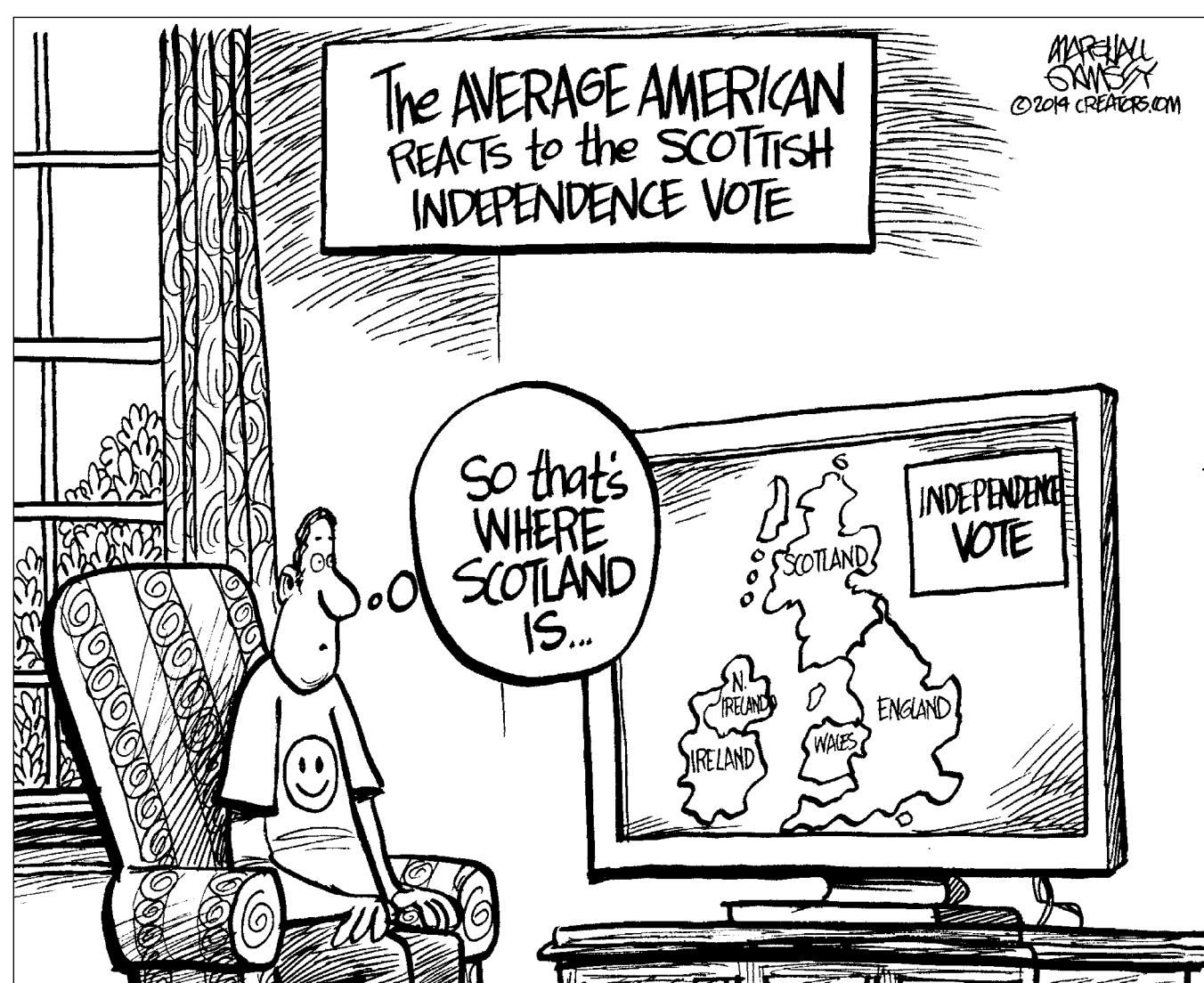
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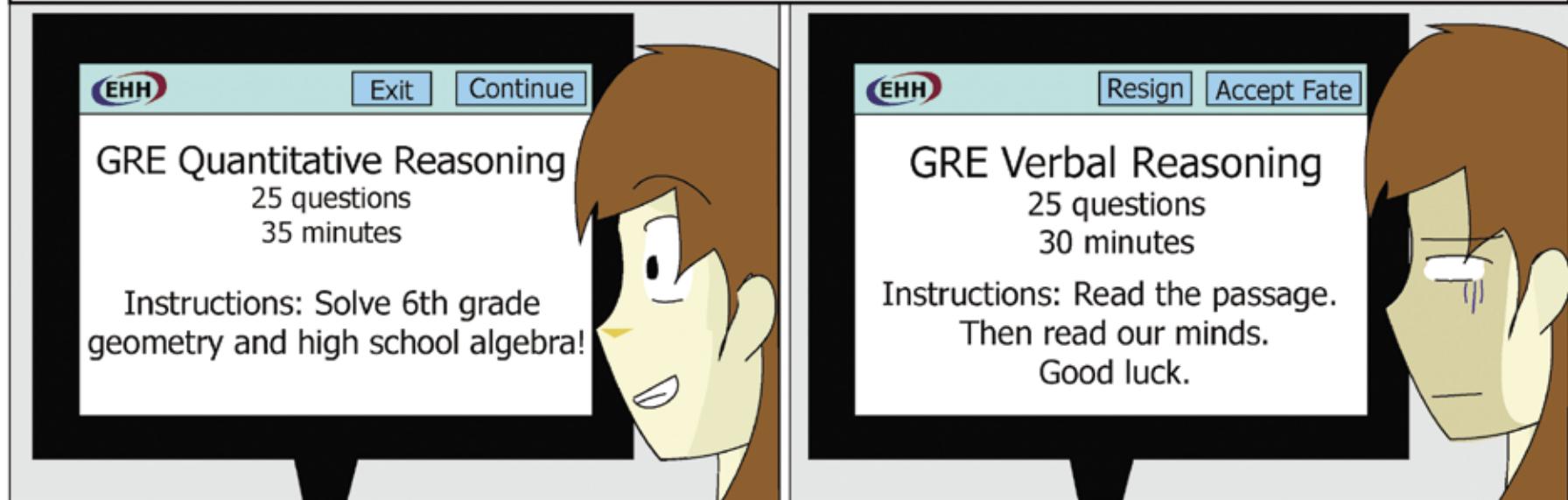
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Q.E.D. (QUITE EASILY DONE)

BY ERIKA TRENT

## TAKING THE GRE



WWW.QEDCOMICS.COM

# **Somewhere on the Search for Meaning...** Letitia Li

Of Alternate Universe Grad Students...

Please accept these tears of devotion and orb of brilliance...

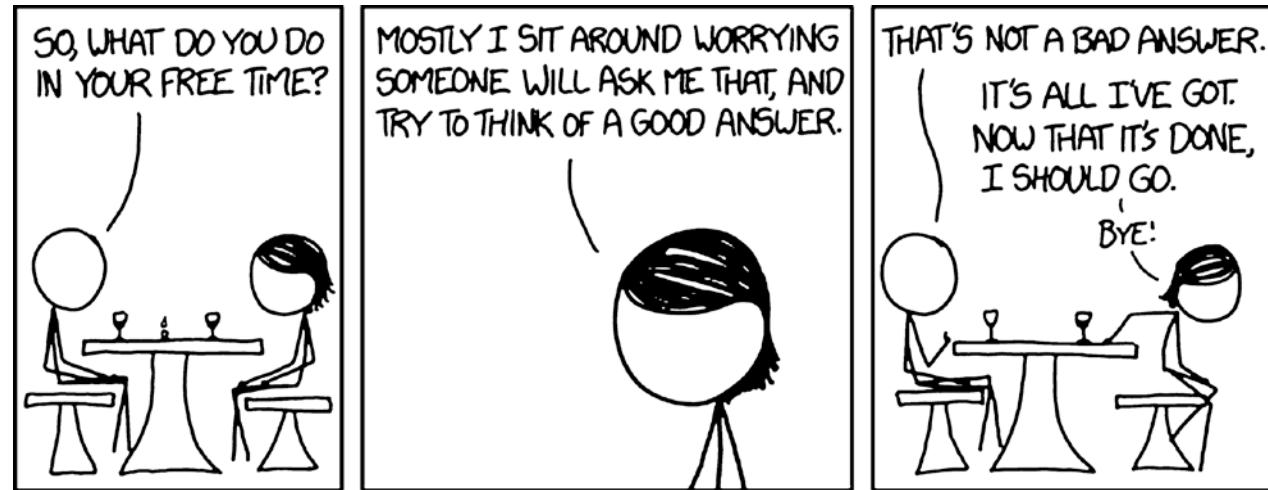
...and accept me into your lab - I mean guild.

Well, you have been published 8 times in *Nature* and 14 times in *Science*...

...and this is the research you've dreamed about for your entire life...

...But right now, we don't even have the funding to even buy an extra donut for you at meetings.

## [1423] Conservation



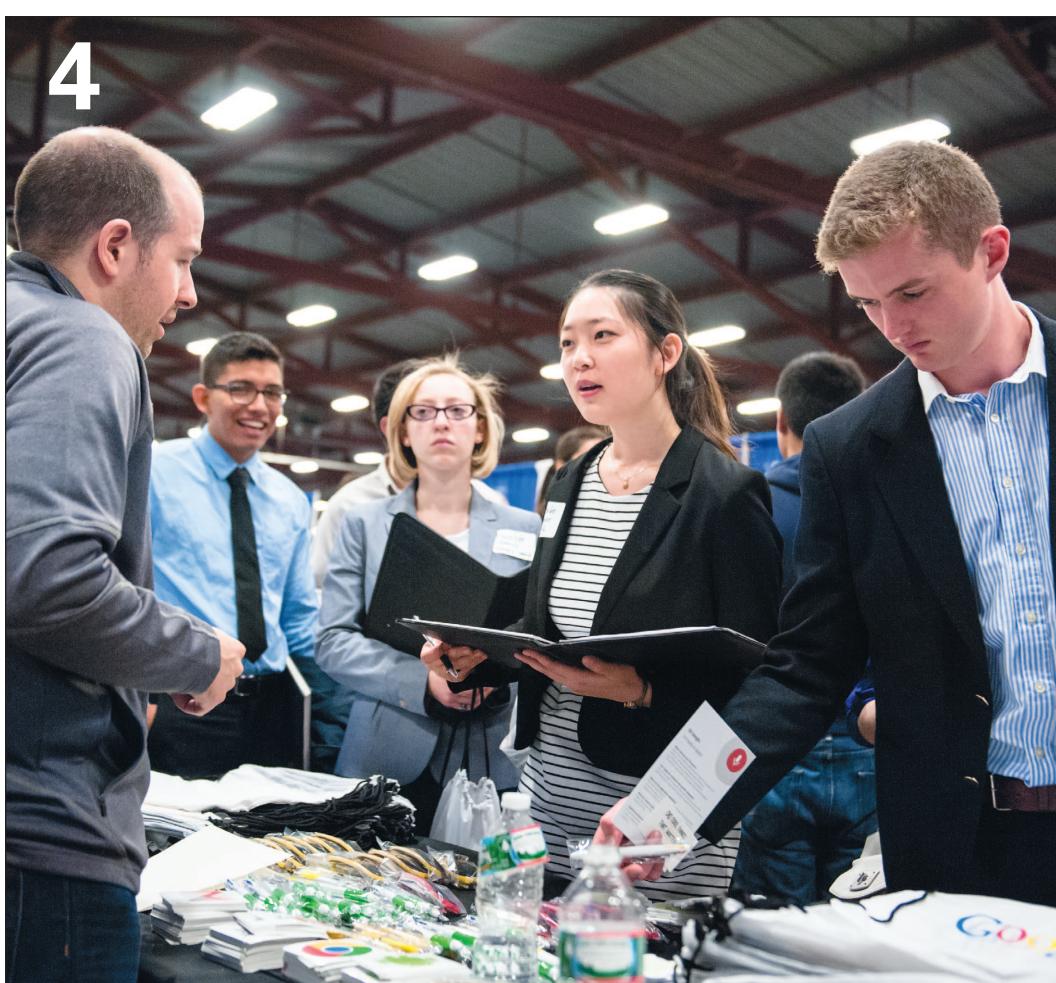
Later, at home: Dear diary: Still can't figure out what to write here ...





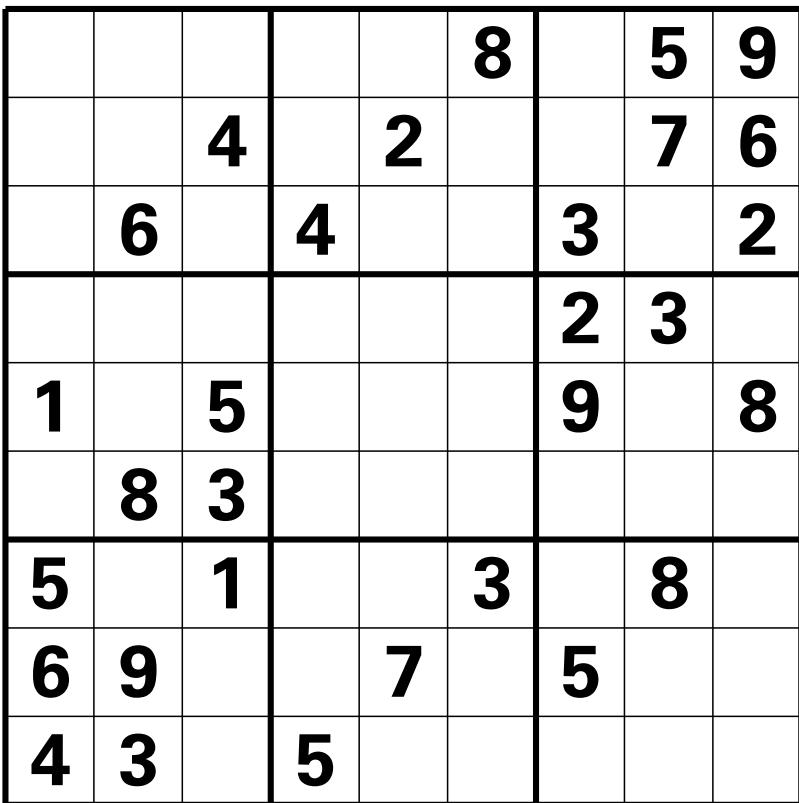
## 2014 Fall Career Fair

1. A representative of Amplitude, a mobile analytics company, passes out free souvenirs to a student who spun Amplitude's giveaway wheel. Nearly every booth at the fair had free souvenirs to entice attendees. Popular freebies included t-shirts, water bottles, desserts, and stickers.
2. An athenahealth representative passes out free t-shirts to attendees entering the Zesiger Center. Dropbox and athenahealth, both supplying t-shirts, were the first booths to greet students entering the fair, where over 380 companies were set up.
3. A guitarist promoting Motu, a professional music and audio tools company, explains Motu's software to a fair attendee. The company's display included several instruments that were played live and posters that detailed its products.
4. Recruiters from Google speak with several interested students. Many students brought résumés and attempted to secure interviews with companies at the fair, while others sought career advice from the representatives.
5. Students fill out name tags outside of the Zesiger Center before entering the fair. They expedited conversation with recruiters, who commonly sought students of specific majors and experience levels.
6. A student checks the Guidebook app on his phone while in the midst of booths on the Johnson Track. For the first time, Career Fair information was available through a mobile app, allowing attendees to refer to maps, schedules, and lists of companies at the fair.
7. At the Bloomberg LP booth, a representative explains the data displayed on the screens behind him. While Bloomberg used the large screens to advertise its work with complex stock market analytics, other companies promoted using live demos or samples of their products.



# Sudoku I

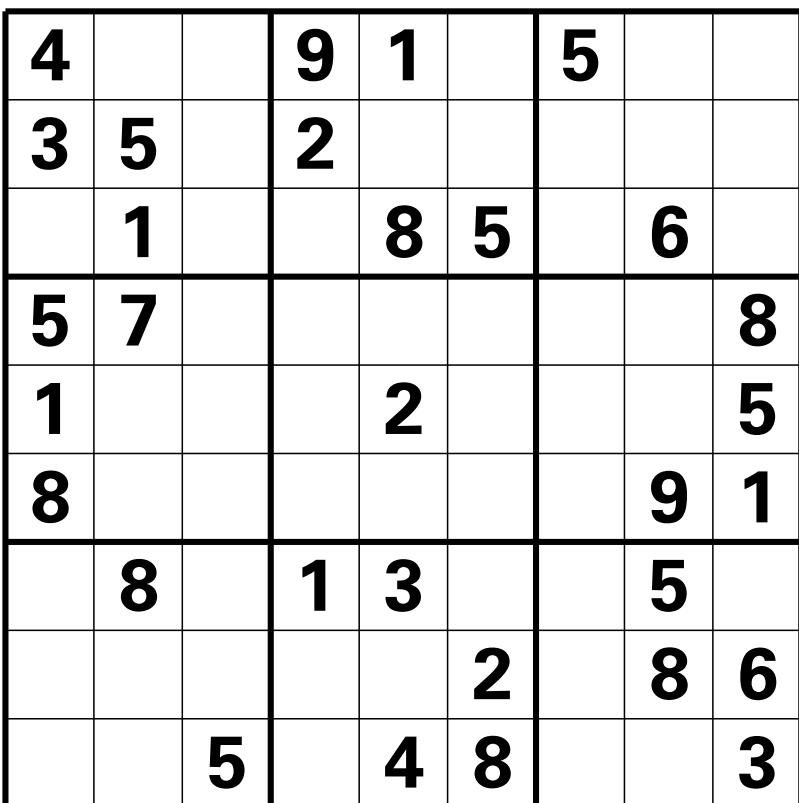
## Solution, page 9



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Sudoku II

### Solution, page 9



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Saturday Stumper

Solution, page 9

## ACROSS

- 1 Crew locales
- 10 They often fall through
- 15 Words of coolness
- 16 Normandy city
- 17 Hairsplitter's concern
- 18 "Jewel in the Crown" of the British Empire
- 19 Far from comfy
- 20 Far from comfy
- 22 Gettysburg address ender
- 23 Directly
- 24 Record producers
- 27 City between Milan and Venice
- 31 Dumped
- 32 Dictionary collection
- 35 Small shake of a sort
- 36 Air France merger partner
- 37 Grey's Anatomy props
- 38 Result of too many falls
- 39 You might have a ball with it
- 40 Butterfly attractors
- 41 Small counter
- 42 Thousand Oaks neighbor
- 44 Glowing state
- 46 glasses

49 Flat, for one: Abbr.

50 It's unlikely to make a chicken move

53 Pump reinforcement

56 Author analyzed by Sartre

57 Words of coolness

59 Group of winds

60 From

61 Pull up

62 Pepsi Challenge, for instance

**DOWN**

1 Smartphone selection

2 Whom Gandalf was modeled on

3 Beauty and the Beast Golden Globe winner

4 Worked with clay, in a way

5 20th-century pope

6 Screen appearance

7 Sushi-bar snapper

8 Joan Miró collaborator

9 Start

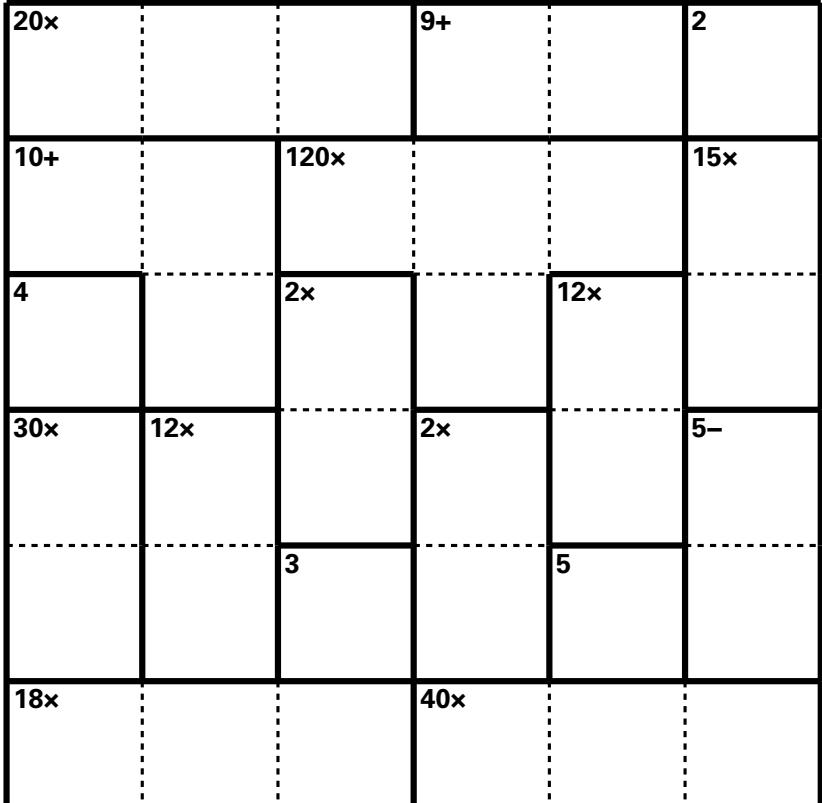
10 "Come back new" sloganizer

DOWN

1 Smartphone selection	28 Now there
2 Whom Gandalf was modeled on	29 MixRadio app maker
3 Beauty and the Beast Golden Globe winner	30 Shelter exhortation
4 Worked with clay, in a way	33 Great or big follower
5 20th-century pope	34 Madison's second vice president
6 Screen appearance	37 Aid in securing locks
7 Sushi-bar snapper	41 Kellogg's snack brand
8 Joan Miró collaborator	43 Is with you
9 Start	45 Don't go all out?
10 "Come back new" sloganeer	47 Passing remark
	48 __ España (Mexico's former name)
	50 Musician "on chains" in

# Techdoku I

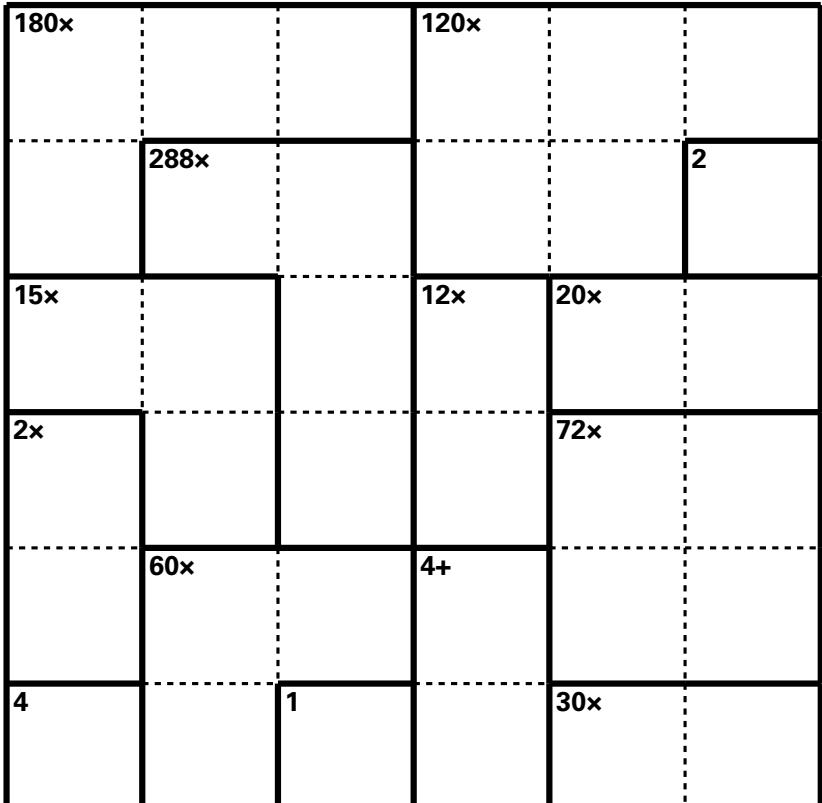
## Solution, page 9



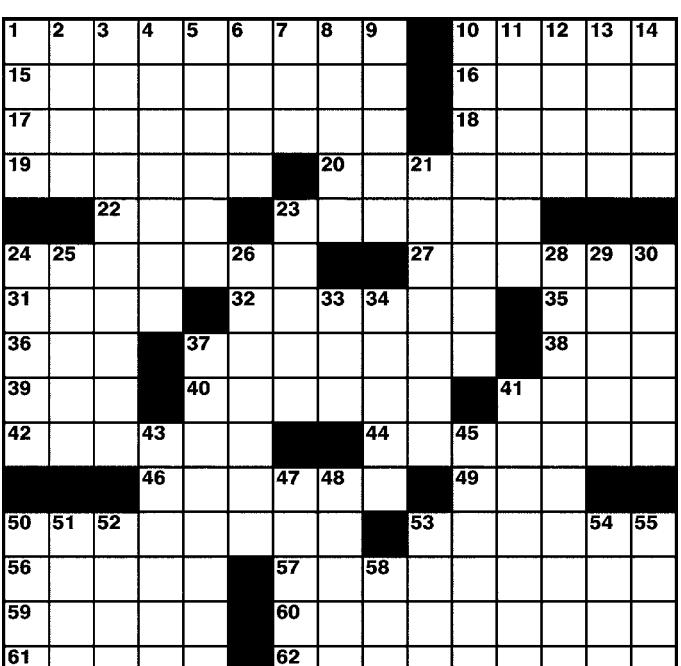
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Techdoku II

## Solution, page 9



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



## “Monster Mash”

Monster Mash  
Half of icosa-  
Start to trust  
Nuisance or fraud  
Mausa-like flies

- 55 User of scanning devices
- 58 First name of the only person in the Inventors and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame



## SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

# Sincerity on a day-to-day basis

Thoughts on approaching friendships

By Jing Lin

It was a simple question really, but we often overlook the significance of simple questions. One day during the second semester of my senior high year in high school, a friend asked me in passing, "How are you doing?" I froze.

I didn't know how to respond and instinctively said "I'm good" before registering the question. I then corrected myself and stated, "I take that back. I'm not doing too well." I smiled one of those "let's be positive and work through it" smiles, but my friend stopped. We looked at each other awkwardly for twenty seconds before departing.

Even though we were friends, Sigma didn't know how to respond when I sincerely answered a question that is too frequently asked insincerely. As we move forward into an era where the platforms for social interaction (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Messenger, etc.) are becoming more prevalent and pervasive elements of our world, it is important to understand that the words we utter carry weight and significance.

To be sincere in social interactions is to be true to ourselves. We shouldn't treat everyone the same, but we should treat everyone with the same level of baseline re-

spect, positivity and trust. It's hard for us to be sincere because of two reasons: either we don't expect to meet whomever we are speaking to again or we aren't comfortable in the environment we find ourselves in.

In the former case, because we don't expect to ever meet again the strangers we are speaking to, we hold ourselves back. We stick to polite remarks that never extend deeper into the more meaningful areas of conversation. To many of us, sharing our true selves with others is like an investment. If those other people disappear from our lives, the investment doesn't succeed and we experience emptiness. It's similar to screaming into the abyss and expecting to hear a voice back. Consequently, we become insincere so that we don't experience the emptiness of never meeting again people who we have become attached to.

In the latter case, we view social interaction as a responsibility, obligation, or intimidating experience and where we can't be who we are. Typical scenarios that might induce fear include speaking with upperclassmen, heading out to social events, having lunch with professors, or even interacting with new roommates. In environments where we aren't relaxed, we can't let our guard down and speak from the heart.

Rather than speak as we would to inti-

mate friends, we depend on neutral, open-ended statements that foster agreement without sharing what we truly think. In having lunch with a professor, we may become timid and afraid to say that we don't like how the lectures are structured when the professor asks if we enjoy the course. We don't want to offend, so we keep our thoughts to ourselves and ambiguously in one way or another agree with whatever the subject matter happens to be.

I've found myself in both of these situations here at MIT. I've met other students randomly in the hallway, at REX events, or in dining halls and become overwhelmed wondering what the point is of trying to establish a meaningful connection or conversation. When those thoughts come, I have to push them down. Only then can I be myself and meet others.

When heading out to REX and orientation events, I was taken aback by the sheer scale and intensity of the events. Having a huge crowd of energetic people in any given place is overwhelming, and I have to tell myself that I will define my space and identity before interacting with others.

A year ago, I wouldn't have had the courage to speak my mind around others in these types of situations. Then, a high school substitute teacher's words changed the way I viewed people. The teacher said,

"There are friends for a lifetime, year, month, day, or minute. Today I am your friend for the duration of the class."

I'm not sad anymore when people leave. Rather, I look forward to the time when I meet people again. However, those people can't become friends until I become brave enough to treat every type of acquaintance with attention, care and sincerity. So I learned to just be myself. If I'm always worried about what someone thinks of me when I say something, then I won't ever become intimate friends with that person.

So I'm going to be who I am, and the people who appreciate me will end up becoming my friends. I know that like in any relationship, whether platonic or romantic, my 100 percent is only 50 percent of the social endeavor and I shouldn't be discouraged if my sincere self is not taken well. Even when I do my best, sometimes I don't connect with someone else. There have been people I've met here at MIT who I've spoken to a few times but never again. That's okay though. Some people click. Some people don't. That's just the way it is.

So next time you meet someone, skip over the polite exchanges that stifle meaningful conversation and take a leap of faith by speaking your mind. Someone will catch you.

## EVENTS

SEPT. 23 – SEPT. 29

## TUESDAY

(6 p.m. – 8 p.m.) LSC and Physics department show Particle Fever, \$4 tickets in lobby 16 — 26-100

## WEDNESDAY

(1 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Blood drive sponsored by Blood Drives and American Red Cross Team and Network — W20 (La Sala)

(7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) MIT Energy Initiative Expo, sponsored by MIT Energy Club and MIT Energy Initiative — 3-270

## THURSDAY

(4 p.m. – 5 p.m.) Negotiating Job Offers workshop (advanced registration requested via CareerBridge), sponsored by MIT Global Education & Career Development — 1-190

(6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Mistakes in Science and Technology, with speaker Richard Levins of Harvard School of Public Health — 66-144

## FRIDAY

(7 p.m. – 10 p.m.) European Short Film Festival, sponsored by MIT Hyperstudio, Comparative Media Studies/Writing, and MIT Global Studies and Languages — 10-250

(8 p.m. – 11 p.m.) Spain@MIT Welcome Dinner — NW86

## SATURDAY

(7 p.m. – 9 p.m.) LSC shows Back to the Future, tickets \$4 in Lobby 16 — 26-100

## SUNDAY

(3 p.m. – 5 p.m.) MITHAS presents "Poetry in Motion," an array of Indian Dance forms — W16 (Kresge)

## MONDAY

(4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Planets and Life Series: The Keys to Habitability, Light to Life — 2-105

Send your campus events to [events@tech.mit.edu](mailto:events@tech.mit.edu).

A sampling of people you'll meet during a typical dinner at The Tech:

Derek, Course 1	Will, Course 8	Anne, Course 17
Kath, Course 2	Jess, Course 9	Leon, Course 18
Esme, Course 3	Joyce, Course 10	Jack, Course 19
Dohyun, Course 4	Vince, Course 12	Tushar, Course 20
Will, Course 5	Anthony, Course 14	Stephen, 21/CMS
Austin, Course 6	Maggie, Course 15	Keith, Course 22
Kali, Course 7	Chris, Course 16	Marissa, Course 24

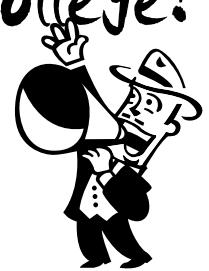
Meet your new pset support group



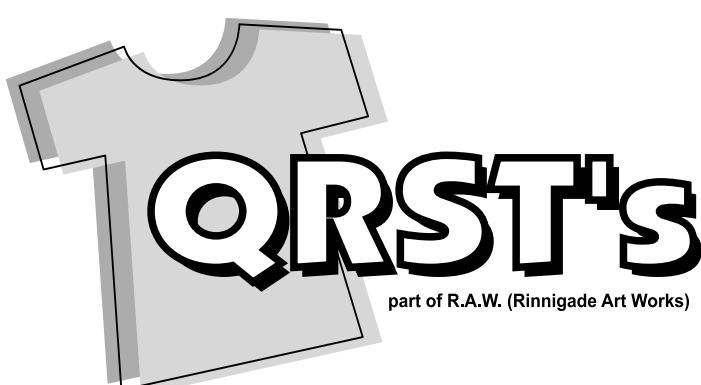
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# Next House grows in popularity, MacGregor sees opposite trend

2014 numbers on summer housing lottery, FYRE are out

FYRE, from Page 1

of our events revolved around food so that we could hopefully facilitate communication with actual members of Maseeh," said Katie Gohres '17, one of Maseeh's REX chairs. Their biggest hit was an event in which they catered frozen yogurt from Café 472. Over 100 students showed up, said Gohres.

**Overall, most students were pleased with the housing selection process. Of the 1,044 freshmen, 65 percent received their top choice during the summer lottery.**

A few other Maseeh events didn't turn out as well, though, due to mistakes in the reporting of event times, but Gohres said that next year the REX committee "hope[s] to be a lot more clear with each other ... and with DormCon" concerning the scheduling of events.

The FYRE results show that Maseeh saw relatively few people wanting to switch in or out. Eight students requested to move in and only six requested transfer out. Gohres thought Maseeh's relatively new culture and lack of "a solid set of personalities" might have contributed to this low turnover volume during FYRE. Since the dorm is composed of a "huge eclectic group of people," there may have been an overall indifference to the FYRE process, said Gohres.

The dorms that saw the largest demand during FYRE were Burton Conner, with 34 students requesting to enter and only 10 leaving, and Simmons, with 28 requesting to enter and 12 leaving.

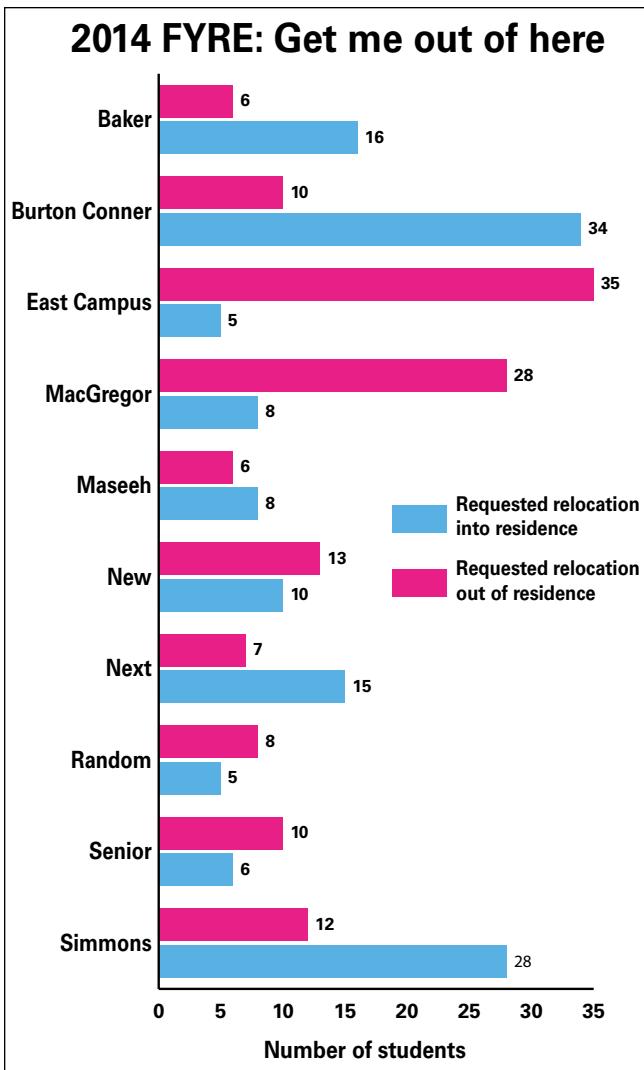
Evelyn Florentine '18 was one of the few able to relocate to Burton Conner, and attributes her decision to enter the lottery to four tours of Burton Conner she took during REX. "I really liked the suite styles... and the fact that I'd be around people of all ages," said Florentine.

As in previous years, though, several dorms had more difficulty attracting new freshmen. East Campus had 35 people attempting to leave and only five entering.

MacGregor also struggled to garner interest during both the summer lottery and REX. "The issue [with] MacGregor is that it's not particularly awe-inspiring as an overall dorm because there's not an overarching culture," said MacGregor's REX chair Elizabeth Shen '16. "MacGregor has slowly been changing. I heard that in the past, it used to be a ghost town. People may still kind of think that, but it's definitely become more vivid of a community." MacGregor's REX events this year, which included a carnival and a luau, were a chance to change that image.

Overall, most students were pleased with the housing selection process. Of the 1,044 MIT freshmen, 65 percent received their top choice during the summer lottery, and 68 percent of those who wanted to relocate during FYRE did so successfully.

Florentine thinks "it's great that students have a lot of freedom to choose where they want to live." She noted that, for the most part, "no other college lets you do that."



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